

What is claimed is:

1. An editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of clients that are connected via a network to the editing server, the editing server including:

editing information receiving means for receiving editing information from a client out of the plurality of clients, wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

AV stream obtaining means for obtaining each specified AV stream;

editing means for performing the editing operation for the obtained AV streams in accordance with the received editing information; and

transmitting means for transmitting each AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, to the client.

2. The editing server of Claim 1, further including

AV stream storing means for storing at least one AV stream,

wherein when the received editing information specifies at least two AV streams, at least two video frames in the at least two AV streams, and the combining as the

editing operation, the AV stream obtaining means reads the at least two specified AV streams from the AV stream storing means, and

wherein the editing means performs the editing operation by combining the at least two specified video frames contained in the at least two read AV streams to generate an AV stream.

3. The editing server of Claim 2,

wherein as a result of the combining, the editing means generates a combined video frame, and reduces a resolution of the combined video frame.

4. The editing server of Claim 1, further including

AV stream storing means for storing at least one AV stream,

wherein when the received editing information specifies the addition as the editing operation, the AV stream obtaining means reads the at least one specified AV stream from the AV stream storing means, and

wherein the editing means performs the editing operation by adding a special effect to each specified frame contained in the at least one read AV stream.

5. The editing server of Claim 1,

wherein when the received editing information specifies the addition as the editing operation, the AV

stream obtaining means receives the at least one specified AV stream from the client who sends the editing information, and wherein the editing means performs the editing operation by adding a special effect to each specified frame contained in the at least one received AV stream.

6. An audio-video (AV) editing system which comprises the editing server of Claim 1 and a plurality of clients that are connected via a network to the editing server,

wherein the plurality of clients each include:

editing information generating means for generating editing information, which specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

editing information transmitting means for transmitting the generated editing information to the editing server;

stream receiving means for receiving an AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, from the editing server; and

reproducing means for reproducing the received AV stream.

7. An editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a content server and a

plurality of clients, wherein the editing server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are connected via a network, the editing server including:

editing information receiving means for receiving editing information and a client number from the content server,

wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream and at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and contains an instruction to perform at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame,

wherein the client number specifies a client to which an AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, is to be transmitted;

AV stream receiving means for receiving each specified AV stream from the content server, which stores an AV stream;

editing means for extracting the instruction from the received editing information, and performing, for the received AV streams, at least one of the combining and the addition in accordance with the extracted instruction; and

transmitting means for transmitting each AV stream, for which at least one of the combining and the addition has been performed, to the client specified by the client number.

8. A content server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes an editing server and a plurality of

clients, wherein the editing server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are connected via a network, the content server including:

AV stream storing means for storing at least one AV stream;

editing information receiving means for receiving editing information from a client out of the plurality of clients,

wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c) a transmission of each specified frame; and

transmitting means for reading each specified frame from the AV stream storing means, transmitting the read frame to the editing server if the specified editing operation is at least one of the combining and the addition, and transmitting the read frame to the client if the specified editing operation is the transmission.

9. An audio-video (AV) editing system which comprises a plurality of clients, the editing server of Claim 7, and the content server of Claim 8, all of which are connected via a network, wherein the plurality of clients each include:

editing information generating means for generating the editing information, which specifies at least one AV

stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c) a transmission of each specified frame;

editing information transmitting means for transmitting the generated editing information to the content server;

receiving means for receiving an AV stream from one of the editing server and the content server; and

reproducing means for reproducing the received AV stream.

10. An editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of editing clients connected via a network to the editing server, wherein each editing client performs editing for an AV stream by executing a script, wherein the editing server includes:

script storing means for storing a group of scripts that each describe a processing content for producing a special effect of a different type;

script request receiving means for receiving a request for a script from a client out of the plurality of clients, the request designating a type of the script; and

script transmitting means for reading the script of the designated type from the script storing means, and transmitting the read script to the client.

11. The editing server of Claim 10, further including:
script list request receiving means for receiving a
request for a script list from an editing client out of the
plurality of editing clients, the script list showing
information regarding the group of scripts stored in the
script storing means;
script list storing means for storing the script
list; and
script transmitting means for reading the script list
from the script list storing means in response to the
received request, and transmitting the read script list to
the editing client.

12. The editing server of Claim 10, further including:
sample data generating means for reading a script
from the script storing means, and having the read script
executed on a predetermined AV stream to generate sample
data;
sample data request receiving means for receiving a
request for sample data from an editing client out of the
plurality of editing clients, the request designating a type
of a script; and
sample data transmitting means for transmitting, to
the editing client, the sample data generated by having the
script of the designated type executed.

1 13. The editing server of Claim 10, further including:
2 preview data request receiving means for receiving a
3 request for preview data from an editing client out of the
4 plurality of editing clients, the request containing an AV
5 stream and designating a type of a script;
6 preview data generating means for reading the script
7 of the designated type from the script storing means, and
8 executing the read script on the AV stream contained in the
9 received request to generate preview data; and
10 preview data transmitting means for transmitting the
11 generated preview data to the editing client.

1 14. The editing server of Claim 10,
2 wherein the AV editing system further comprises
3 a script generating client connected via the network
4 to the editing server, and
5 wherein the editing server further includes:
6 a registration request receiving means for receiving
7 a script from the script generating client; and
8 a script placing means for placing the received
9 script into the script storing means.

1 15. The editing server of Claim 14, further including:
2 usage information storing means for storing usage
3 information which associates each script stored in the script
4 storing means with an identifier (ID) of a provider who has
5 transmitted the script, and with an ID of a user who has

received the script; and
charging information generating means for generating,
based on the usage information, charging information which
associates each script stored in the script storing means
with a first fee paid to a provider of the script and a
second fee charged to a user of the script.

16. The editing server of Claim 15,
wherein when the usage information associates a
script with a larger total number of IDs of users, the
charging information generating means generates the charging
information associating the script with a larger first fee
and a larger second fee.

17. An audio-video (AV) editing system which comprises a
plurality of editing clients, the editing server of Claim 10,
and a script generating client, wherein the editing server is
connected via a network to the script generating client and
each editing client, wherein each editing client performs
editing for an AV stream by executing a script and includes:

transmitting means for transmitting a request for a
script to the editing server, the request designating a type
of the script; and

receiving means for receiving the script of the
designated type from the editing server,

wherein the script generating client includes:

script generating means for generating a script that

describes a processing content for producing a special effect of one type; and

script transmitting means for transmitting the generated script to the editing server.

18. An editing method used by an editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of clients that are connected via a network to the editing server, the editing method including:

an editing information receiving step for receiving editing information from a client out of the plurality of clients, wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

an AV stream obtaining step for obtaining each specified AV stream;

an editing step for performing the editing operation for the obtained AV streams in accordance with the received editing information; and

a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, to the client.

19. An editing method used by an editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a content

server and a plurality of clients, wherein the editing server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are connected via a network, the editing method including:

an editing information receiving step for receiving editing information and a client number from the content server,

wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream and at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and contains an instruction to perform at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame,

wherein the client number specifies a client to which an AV stream, for which the editing operation has been performed, is to be transmitted;

an AV stream receiving step for receiving each specified AV stream from the content server, which stores an AV stream;

an editing step for extracting the instruction from the received editing information, and performing, for the received AV streams, at least one of the combining and the addition in accordance with the extracted instruction; and

a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream, for which at least one of the combining and the addition has been performed, to the client specified by the client number.

20. An editing method used by a content server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes an editing

3 server and a plurality of clients, wherein the editing
4 server, the content server, and the plurality of clients are
5 connected via a network, the editing method including:

6 an editing information receiving step for receiving
7 editing information from a client out of the plurality of
8 clients,

9 wherein the editing information specifies at least
10 one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least
11 one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at
12 least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an
13 addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c)
14 a transmission of each specified frame; and

15 a transmitting step for reading each specified frame
16 from AV stream storing means which stores at least one AV
17 stream, transmitting the read frame to the editing server if
18 the specified editing operation is at least one of the
19 combining and the addition, and transmitting the read frame
20 to the client if the specified editing operation is the
21 transmission.

1 21. An editing method used by an editing server included in
2 an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a
3 plurality of editing clients connected via a network to the
4 editing server, wherein each editing client performs editing
5 for an AV stream by executing a script, wherein the editing
6 method includes:

7 a script request receiving step for receiving a

request for a script from a client out of the plurality of clients, the request designating a type of the script, the script describing a processing content for producing a special effect of one type;

a script transmitting step for reading the script of the designated type from script storing means which stores a script, and transmitting the read script to the client.

22. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program to have a server computer perform editing, wherein the server computer is included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of client computers that are connected via a network to the server computer, the editing including:

an editing information receiving step for receiving editing information from a client computer out of the plurality of client computers, wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame;

an AV stream obtaining step for obtaining each specified AV stream;

an editing step for performing the editing operation for the obtained AV streams in accordance with the received editing information; and

20 a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream,
21 for which the editing operation has been performed, to the
22 client computer.

1 23. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a
2 program to have a server computer perform editing, wherein
3 the server computer is included in an audio/video (AV)
4 editing system, which includes a content computer and a
5 plurality of client computers, wherein the server computer,
6 the content computer, and the plurality of client computers
7 are connected via a network, the editing including:

8 an editing information receiving step for receiving
9 editing information and a client number from the content
10 computer,

11 wherein the editing information specifies at least
12 one AV stream and at least one frame contained in the at
13 least one AV stream, and contains an instruction to perform
14 at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, and
15 (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame,

16 wherein the client number specifies a client computer
17 to which an AV stream, for which the editing operation has
18 been performed, is to be transmitted;

19 an AV stream receiving step for receiving each
20 specified AV stream from the content computer, which stores
21 an AV stream;

22 an editing step for extracting the instruction from
23 the received editing information, and performing, for the

received AV streams, at least one of the combining and the addition in accordance with the extracted instruction; and a transmitting step for transmitting each AV stream, for which at least one of the combining and the addition has been performed, to the client computer specified by the client number.

24. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program to have a content computer perform a predetermined operation, wherein the content computer is included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a server computer and a plurality of client computers, wherein the server computer, the content computer, and the plurality of client computers are connected via a network, wherein the predetermined operation includes:

an editing information receiving step for receiving editing information from a client computer out of the plurality of client computers,

wherein the editing information specifies at least one AV stream, at least one frame contained in the at least one AV stream, and an editing operation which contains at least one of (a) a combining of each specified frame, (b) an addition of a special effect to each specified frame, and (c) a transmission of each specified frame; and

a transmitting step for reading each specified frame from AV stream storing means which stores at least one AV stream, transmitting the read frame to the server computer if

the specified editing operation is at least one of the combining and the addition, and transmitting the read frame to the client computer if the specified editing operation is the transmission.

25. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program to have a server computer perform an editing operation, wherein the server computer is included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of client computers connected via a network to the server computer, wherein each client computer performs editing for an AV stream by executing a script, wherein the editing operation includes:

a script request receiving step for receiving a request for a script from a client computer out of the plurality of client computers, the request designating a type of the script, the script describing a processing content for producing a special effect of one type; and

a script transmitting step for reading the script of the designated type from script storing means which stores a script, and transmitting the read script to the client computer.